

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A portioning device for portioning a bulk material, the portioning device comprising:

a forming space adapted to be filled by a mass of the bulk material, the forming space bounded by a wall for forming the mass, and the wall including a slit and an output opening; and

a cutting device for portioning the mass filled into the forming space into a plurality of mass portions, the cutting device having a cutter that is at least partially introducible through the slit into the forming space, and each of the plurality of mass portions being output from the forming space through the output opening;

wherein the slit extends far enough through the wall so that the cutter can cut completely through a cross section of the forming space, and the forming space has a geometry matched to the form of an end product.

2. (Previously Presented) The portioning device of claim 1 wherein the cutting device is introducible into the forming space in a direction that lies approximately perpendicular to the direction in which the mass is filled into the forming space.

3. (Previously Presented) The portioning device of claim 1 wherein the forming space has a filling opening through which the mass can be filled into the forming space.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The portioning device of claim 4 wherein the forming space is defined inside a tube through which the mass is axially transportable.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The portioning of claim 1 wherein the cutter is introducible into the forming space at a place such that each of the plurality of mass portions formed, when the cutter is introduced, is supported by at least part of the wall.

9. (Currently Amended) The portioning device of claim [[8]] 1 wherein the slit is spaced at a distance from an output opening of the forming space such that a section of the forming space corresponds at least approximately to the size of each of the plurality of mass portions.

10. (Currently Amended) The portioning device of claim [[8]] 1 wherein the wall is substantially cylindrical and the slit almost completely penetrates the wall.

11. (Previously Presented) The portioning device of claim 1 wherein the cutter is a two-bladed, rotatable cutting knife.

12. (Currently Amended) The portioning device of claim 1 further comprising: [[a]]
means for fastening the cutting device as an attachment to a device for transporting and/or mincing bulk material.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for transporting and/or mincing bulk material, the device comprising:

a forming space adapted to be filled by a mass of the bulk material, the forming space bounded by a wall for forming the mass, the wall including a slit and an output opening, and the forming space having a geometry matched to the form of an end product; and

a cutting device for portioning the mass filled into the forming space into a plurality of mass portions, the cutting device having a cutter that can be introduced through the slit at least partially into the forming space, and each of the plurality of mass portions being output from the forming space through the output opening[[:]],

wherein the slit extends far enough through the wall so that the cutter can cut completely through the cross section of the forming space.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13 further comprising:
a smoothing belt that can receive the plurality of mass portions, the smoothing belt cooperating with at least one shaping surface to aftershape each of the plurality of mass portions.
15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13 further comprising:
means for transporting the mass, the means of transport being discontinuously operable, and the timing of the discontinuous operation cooperating with the introductory motion of the cutter into the forming space for portioning the mass into the plurality of mass portions.
16. (Currently Amended) The portioning device of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the geometry has a cross-section that is substantially rotationally symmetrical.
17. (Currently Amended) The portioning device of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the geometry has a cross-section that is oval.
18. (New) The portioning device of claim 13 wherein the geometry has a cross-section that is substantially rotationally symmetrical.
19. (New) The portioning device of claim 13 wherein the geometry has a cross-section that is oval.
20. (New) A method for portioning a bulk material, the method comprising:
continuously filling a forming space by a mass of the bulk material, the forming space having a geometry to match the form of an end product;
forming the mass by means of a wall and an output opening in the wall;
portioning the mass filled into the forming space into a plurality of mass portions by introducing a cutter into a slit of the forming space, said slit extending far enough so that the cutter can cut completely through the cross section of the forming space; and
outputting the plurality of mass portions from the forming space through the output opening.